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1. What is redistricting?

Redistricting is the process ~~where redrawing electoral~~ district lines ~~are redrawn within a state to address population changes~~. Redistricting happens every ten years after the US Census tells us how many people live in various areas of the United States. The new Census data show us where populations have changed, such as more people moving into or out of a particular area. We use Census data to determine how many people should be in a particular kind of district and also to measure whether our current districts have too many or too few people. Finally, we use that Census data to make sure that the new districts we draw contain about the same number of people.

All jurisdictions that use districts to elect representatives must redistrict if new Census data shows that population shifts have made their districts have unequal populations. At the state level, California must draw new districts for This includes districts for CongressUS House of Representatives, State Board of Equalization, State Senate, and State Assembly. In addition, smaller jurisdictions in California must redistrict, including, county boards of supervisors, city councils, school boards and other districts.

~~Every ten years, the census count gives us a snapshot of how many people there are in the United States and where they live.~~

~~Once we know how many people live in California, we redistrict. That is, we draw new district lines that put the same number of people into each electoral district.~~

~~Redistricting ensures every person has equal representation by drawing districts with an equal number of people — one person, one vote.~~

~~Why is redistricting important to me?~~

~~Our democracy is based on voters choosing elected representatives who will listen to and serve the interests of constituents. How a district is drawn can determine who runs for election and whether communities have a voice in choosing their representatives.~~

~~Public participation in map drawing is critical to ensuring that communities have the strongest voice possible to express their preferences. When voters~~

with similar interests are drawn into a district together, their voices multiply giving them a greater opportunity to express their views, elect candidates of their choice and hold their leaders accountable.

Speaking up about your community is important to ensure district lines are drawn so that your voice is heard by your elected leaders in making sure that the flow of resources meets your community's needs.

2. What is the ~~California~~A Citizens Redistricting Commission?

In 2008 and 2010, the voters passed Propositions 11 and 20. ~~In 2011, F~~for the first time in California, a ~~new~~ 14-person commission called the Citizens Redistricting Commission will draw ~~the~~ district maps ~~for~~of:

- 53 congressional districts
- 40 State Senate districts
- 80 State Assembly districts
- 4 Board of Equalization Districts

The Citizens Redistricting Commission ("the Commission") met for the first time in January 2011. ~~During the spring and summer, The the~~ Commission will hold meetings around California to listen to residents describe their communities, neighborhoods, and what issues are important to them. Based on ~~th~~ise public input, the commission will draw new district maps. The Commission has until August 15, 2011 to approve final district lines.

For more information about what the Citizens Redistricting Commission is doing, visit the official site:

www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov

3. ~~How can I get involved?~~

~~There are lots of ways you can get involved.~~

~~1. **Go to a Commission Public Input Hearing.** The Commissioners want to hear from you. They can't do their job without you. Hearings will be held throughout the state, more than 30 in all. Tell the Commissioners about your community. (Go to page 8 for more info on talking about your community).~~

~~2. **Get outside help!**~~

~~➤ You can visit one of 6 redistricting assistance sites to use special software and receive assistance in mapping your community. (Go to page ___ for the list).~~

~~➤ To use free software to draw a map of your community, go to www.ReDrawCA.org. (available April 15th)~~

~~➤ For these and other resources, check out www.RedistrictingCA.org.~~

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4.3. ~~How will the~~ What criteria must the ~~Commissioner~~ decide where to draw district lines ~~consider when drawing district maps?~~

The California Constitution tells the Commission what to consider when deciding where to draw district lines. These redistricting criteria were included in Prop 11 and 20, and were approved by California voters. When deciding where to draw the lines, Citizens Redistricting the ~~Commissioners~~ must consider these criteria and only these criteria.

In addition, the Commission must consider the criteria in rank order, meaning that in the case of a conflict between criteria, it must choose to comply with the higher priority criterion. ~~must draw maps that follow these criteria and in this priority order.~~ The redistricting criteria for the Commission are:

1) ~~Comply with the US Constitution and~~ Draw districts with ~~equal population requirements.~~

- For US Congressional Districts, this means districts that are as equal as practicable

- 1) • For Assembly, Senate, and Board of Equalization Districts, this means districts that are reasonably equal, except when necessary to comply with the Voting Rights Act.

2) ~~Comply with the federal Voting Rights Act. This means that districts should be drawn to ensure minority voters have an equal opportunity to elect candidates of their choice. (Go to page 7 for a description).~~

3) ~~Draw districts that are contiguous. This means that a district should be connected at all points.~~

4) ~~Respect counties, cities, communities of interest, and neighborhoods, where possible.~~

5) ~~Draw districts to be compact, where practicable. This rule should only be applied after the other earlier criteria have been satisfied.~~

6) ~~Draw districts to nest within each other, where~~ possible after complying with the preceding criteria ~~practicable.~~ That means:

- 1 Senate district contains 2 Assembly districts
- 1 Board of Equalization district contains 10 Senate districts.

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7 Additionally, the Commission may not consider an incumbent or political candidate's residence in creating a district. The Commission shall not draw -districts for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, -political candidate or political party.

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See California Constitution, Article XXI, SEC. 2 (d) for the full language. [CAN WE ADD A LINK TO THE LANGUAGE ON THE CRC WEBSITE?]

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5.4. What is the Voting Rights Act and why is it important?

The Voting Rights Act is a federal law that prohibits discrimination in voting. It prohibits voting practices or procedures that discriminate on the basis of race, color, or protected language minority status. Language minority groups protected by the Voting Rights Act are Asian, Alaska Native, Native American, and Spanish heritage groups. The Voting Rights Act also prohibits discriminatory districting plans, including districts that provide racial or protected language minority voters with less opportunity to elect representatives of their choice than other voters.

Congress first passed the Voting Rights Act in 1965 to address widespread voting discrimination, mostly against African Americans in the South. Discriminatory practices, such as literacy tests and poll taxes, often applied in a way that allowed otherwise ineligible whites to register and vote, as well as violent attacks on African Americans seeking to register, had led to the near complete disenfranchisement of African American citizens in southern states, despite Constitutional guarantees that the right to vote not be prohibited on the basis of race. The Voting Rights Act was passed shortly after demonstrations in Alabama where non-violent protesters were attacked by police and the subsequent murder of a white mother of five who was transporting protesters back to a safe place. In 1975, Congress heard evidence of discrimination against other groups, and extended the VRA to protect certain language minorities (Asian, Alaska Native, Native American, and Spanish heritage).

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The California redistricting criteria establish that complying with the Voting Rights Act is one of the most important goals for the Commission's work. Two provisions of the VRA are directly involved in redistricting in California:

Section 5: requires certain "covered" jurisdictions to obtain permission (called "preclearance") from the federal government before using any new voting policy or practice. In California, four counties are "covered jurisdictions": King, Merced, Monterey, and Yuba Counties. California's new districts that contain any portion of a covered county must be precleared before it can be used.

Section 2: prohibits discrimination on the basis of race or protected language minority status in voting by any jurisdiction in the nation that conducts elections. This includes redistricting plans that "dilute" the voting strength of protected groups by not providing them with an opportunity to elect representatives of their choice.

For a more detailed description of how the Voting Rights Act works, visit the U.S. Department of Justice at: <http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/vot/redistricting.php>.

Before the Voting Rights Act was passed, the practice of many states was to require qualified African Americans to pass literacy tests in order to register to vote. Other states only allowed a person to register to vote if his or her grandfather was allowed to vote. The Voting Rights Act was passed in 1965 to outlaw these practices.

In the 1970s, Congress heard extensive testimony about how state and local governments drew district lines and manipulated elections rules to prevent newly-registered African American voters from being able to elect candidates. Today, the Voting Rights Act protects racial and language minorities, including African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, Native Americans and Pacific Islanders.

As recently as 2002, for example, the U.S. Department of Justice found that a California school district's effort to change the districts "was motivated, at least in part, by a discriminatory animus" In a state as diverse as California, the Voting Rights Act can protect against this kind of discrimination and ensure that a community has a voice in electing the candidate of its choice.

The California Constitution mandates that the Citizens Redistricting Commission draw lines that comply with the Voting Rights Act. The Commission will consider public input and legal and expert advice to meet the Voting Rights Act requirements.

For a more detailed description of how the Voting Rights Act works, visit the U.S. Department of Justice at: <http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/vot/redistricting.php>.

6.5. What is a Community of Interest?

The California Constitution defines a community of interest as:

A community of interest is a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation. Examples of such shared interests are those common to an urban area, a rural area, an industrial area, or an agricultural area, and those common to areas in which the people share similar living standards, use the same transportation facilities, have similar work opportunities, or have access to the same media of communication relevant to the election process. Communities of interest shall not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

-Section 2(d)(4) of Article XXI of the California Constitution

This basically means that a community of interest is a group of people in the same area that share social and economic interests and who should be kept together in a district so they can get fair and effective representation.

Note, however, that although the law defines community of interest broadly, it very specifically states that communities of interest may NOT be based on a relationship with a political party, incumbent elected official, or candidate. Even if a community does have a strong connection based on such a relationship, the Commission may not consider it when deciding where to draw lines.

This is where the Commission most needs to hear from the public. Although Commissioners are from a variety of locations across California, they don't know about all the communities of interest in the state. They need to hear from you where your community is located and why it is important to keep it together. Without that information from you, the Commission won't know which communities to avoid splitting when drawing lines.

How do I talk about my community?

The Commission needs to know three key things from you about your community:

1. The economic and social interests that bind your community together.
2. Why your community should be kept together for fair and effective representation.

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3. Where your community is located

*Common social and economic interests:

Common social and economic interests can vary a lot from community to community, so it is up to you to tell the Commission what they are. They could include common culture or history, common use of a particular park or transportation, or a common goal or aspiration, such as reducing crime or bringing in more jobs and development.

*Why your community should be kept together:

You should describe why your community should be kept together in a district, which can also include why it would be harmful for your community to be split up into different districts. For example, if your community has been organizing to improve public safety or to improve public parks, you might highlight how your efforts would be helped by being represented by one representative rather than having to work with two (or more) representatives if your community is split.

Imagine you are describing your community to a visitor from out of town. You might talk about the kind of people who live in your community, important issues, community centers, and your community's history.

*Where your community is located:

In order for the Commission to be able to take your community into account, you MUST tell it where your community is located. You should tell the Commission where it is located (county and/or city) and also describe its borders. You can do this by describing physical barriers like streets, rivers, or military bases, or shopping malls, and also by describing legal barriers like city or county lines.

In addition, it is very helpful to provide the Commission with a map of where your community is located, including any landmarks or locations that are particularly important to your community.

Some online software, such as Googlemaps, provides a free and user-friendly method to produce such maps that you can email directly to the Commission or post online for others to comment. Information about using Googlemaps to map your community of interest is available at: redistrictinggroup.org

More sophisticated software is available which not only shows you geography, but also Census information about the people that live there. This software is

not free, but is available to the public at the Redistricting Assistance Sites provided by the Redistricting Group at Berkeley Law.

When thinking about your testimony to the Commission, it might be helpful to imagine how you would describe your community to a visitor from out of town. You might talk about the kind of people who live in your community, important issues, community centers, and your community's history.

~~You should also describe where your community is — use streets or GPS points or landmarks. Showing a map can be helpful to your description.~~

EXAMPLE

I live in a unique area of Farmers Branch called Oak Knoll Valley. It is also a certified neighborhood council. The neighborhood is bounded between Highway 9 on the west and Sunnyside River on the east side. There are approximately 8,000 residents in Oak Knoll Valley and it is primarily a residential area with some areas zoned for commercial and mixed use especially along the river.

The languages spoken in Oak Knoll Valley are primarily English and Spanish with some residents speaking Vietnamese and Mandarin. While most residents go outside our community for shopping and employment, they tend to stay here for their socializing, religious activities and recreation. The Oak Knoll Regional Center provides a variety of activities and is a real hub of the community.

Across the river from Oak Knoll Valley is the community of River Glen which is similar to our community as it is primarily residential. We are in the same school district and the high school which Oak Knoll students attend is in River Glen. It would make sense that we would be included in the same legislative or Congressional district.

On the other side of Highway 9 is Gold City which is primarily an industrial and commercial area. Most of the residents live in multi-family apartment buildings and many of them are new to the area. Gold City is part of a different school district than Oak Knoll. While Gold City is in close proximity to Oak Knoll we have less in common than we do with River Glen.

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~~Here is a quick checklist of things to consider including in your presentation about your community:~~

1. ~~Census and demographic data about the residents of your community.~~
2. ~~Important places, such as parks, cultural centers, religious or government buildings, a commercial area, schools or clubs.~~
3. ~~Issues or traditions that bring residents together such as where to locate a new road or transit line or where to open a school, or traditions such as a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day march.~~
4. ~~Important stakeholders who represent different parts of the community.~~
5. ~~Be clear about the boundaries of your community. You can use street intersections or geographic markers.~~

6. How can I get involved?

The Commission needs to hear from you about your community. There is no Census dataset that will show the Commission where your community is located, so the Commissioners may not know about it if you don't tell them.

Telling the Commission about your community, your neighborhood, or your thoughts about redistricting is called testifying or providing testimony. There are two main ways that you can provide the Commission with testimony:

➤ **In Person at a Public Hearing:** In the Spring and Summer, the Commission will hold several hearings all over the state where you can provide testimony in person. More information about the Public Input hearing is in Section ? of this document. You can also find out more on the Commission's website [ADD LINK for HEARING SCHEDULE/INFO]

➤ **In writing:** You can also provide testimony to the Commission in writing. You can provide written testimony at public hearings, or you can send it directly to the Commission. You can send information to the Commission through the mail [ADD ADDRESS] or by email [ADD EMAIL]

In addition, several organizations are working to provide assistance to the public about providing important information to the Commission.

The Redistricting Group at Berkeley Law has opened six Redistricting Assistance Sites across the state where you can get help with drawing maps of your community or accessing data about your community. At the Redistricting Assistance Sites, you can even use a computer with special redistricting software for free. Below is the location, hours, and contact information for the six centers:

- **Berkeley:** UC Berkeley Law, 2850 Telegraph Ave, Suite 471, Berkeley, CA 94705-7220
Manager: Ms. Tamina Alon, talon@law.berkeley.edu
Hours: Wed 3-9pm, Thur 3-9pm, Sat 9am-4pm and by appointment
- **Sacramento:** Central Library, 2nd Fl. Conference Rm., 828 I St., Sacramento, CA 95814
Manager: Ms. Robin Evans, raevans@law.berkeley.edu
Hours: Wed 2-8pm, Thur 2-8pm, Sat 10am-5pm and by appointment
- **Fresno:** 1713 Tulare St, Suite 130, Fresno, CA 93721
Manager: Mr. Troy Mattson, tmattson@law.berkeley.edu
Hours: Wed 3-9pm, Thur 3-9pm, Sat 9am-4pm and by appointment
- **Los Angeles:** 3167 #F, South Hoover St, Los Angeles, CA 90007

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Manager: Mr. Richard Yarnes, rdyarnes@law.berkeley.edu
Hours: Wed 3-9pm, Thur 3-9pm, Sat 9am-4pm and by appointment

- **San Bernardino:** 475A S. Arrowhead Ave, San Bernardino, CA, 92408
Manager: Mr. John Lavalley, jlavalley@law.berkeley.edu
Hours: Wed 3-9pm, Thur 3-9pm, Sat 9am-4pm and by appointment

- **San Diego:** 588 Euclid Ave. , San Diego, CA 92114
Manager: Mr. Thomas McDowell, thominsd@law.berkeley.edu
Hours: Wed 3-9pm, Thur 3-9pm, Sat 9am-4pm and by appointment

In addition, The Advancement Project is developing free online software that you may be able to use to learn more about and map your community:www.ReDrawCA.org. (available April 15th)

For a list of resources provided by various groups, visit www.RedistrictingCA.org.

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7. Where can I get outside help?

It is very helpful to present maps of your community to the Commission. With a map and a marker, you can outline what you consider to be your community boundaries.

Or you can map your community using a computer. There are a number of organizations that are providing redistricting assistance.

You can get help with drawing community maps or getting data about your community by visiting a **Redistricting Assistance Site**:

- **Berkeley:** UC Berkeley Law, 2850 Telegraph Ave, Suite 471, Berkeley, CA 94705-7220
Manager: Ms. Tamina Alon, talon@law.berkeley.edu
Hours: Wed 3-9pm, Thur 3-9pm, Sat 9am-4pm and by appointment
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Manager: Mr. Thomas McDowell, thominsd@law.berkeley.edu
Hours: Wed 3-9pm, Thur 3-9pm, Sat 9am-4pm and by appointment

You can also visit www.ReDrawCA.org for free online software to draw your own community maps. (Available April 15th)

For a list of resources provided by various groups, visit www.RedistrectingCA.org.

2.7. Public Hearing Schedule

~~The During the Spring and Summer, the~~ Commission will ~~be holding an unprecedented number of several public~~ hearings around the state to receive public input. ~~For To find~~ the full updated schedule of hearing dates and locations, as well as to see any proposed maps of districts, please visit www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov.

April–May 2011: Pre-map Input Hearings

Before the Commission draws ~~any~~ draft maps ~~of districts, the Commission~~ it will ~~be holding~~ hearings around the state to receive input from the public. ~~At a hearing, You can talk to the Commissioners about topics such as about~~ your community ~~of interest~~, neighborhood, city, county, or what areas you would like to see your districts include.

June 10, 2011: Proposed date for the Commission to post the first draft maps*

~~Taking the Based on the~~ public's input ~~into account~~, the Commission will ~~draft and then~~ publicly post its first draft maps for Congressional, State Board of Equalization, State Senate, and State Assembly districts.

June 2011: Draft Map Input Hearings

After the Commission has posted its first draft ~~maps of district~~ ~~mapss~~, ~~the Commission~~ it will ~~be holding~~ hearings around the state to hear from the public. You can ~~talk to the Commission about the draft districts, such as testify about the impact of how the new districts might impact the lines on~~ your community.

July 1, 2011: Proposed date for the Commission to post the second draft maps*

~~Taking public input into account, the Commission may revise the districts and will provide a second set of draft district maps to the public.~~

July 2011: Second Draft Map Input Hearings

~~After posting the second draft maps, the Commission will again hold several hearings to get additional input from the public. The location of these hearings will be determined based on need.~~

July 26, 2011: Proposed date for the Commission to post the final maps*

August 15, 2011: Deadline for the Commission to approve the final maps

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In order to approve and adopt the ~~final~~ district maps for Congress, State Board of Equalization, State Senate, and State Assembly, the Commission must vote to approve them. In order to do so, the maps must have the affirmative votes of at least 3 of 5 its registered Democratic Commissioners, at least 3 of 5 its registered Republican Commissioners, and at least 3 of 4 of its registered non- or other party Commissioners.

**These dates are proposed dates and may change. Please check www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov for the most up-to-date schedules, meeting locations, agendas, and other information.*

2.8. Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the Citizens Redistricting Commission?

A. Every 10 years, after the federal census, California must redraw the boundaries of its Congressional, State Senate, State Assembly, and State Board of Equalization districts, to reflect the new population data. The Citizens Redistricting Commission is the body that ~~Now these lines will be~~ draws lines for these districts ~~n by the Commission.~~ California voters authorized the creation of the Commission when they passed the Voters First Act, which appeared as Proposition 11 on the November 2008 general election ballot. ~~Under the Act, the Commission is charged with drawing the boundaries of California's Congressional, Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization electoral districts.~~

Q. How many Commission members are there?

A. The commission has 14 members from varied ethnic backgrounds and geographic locations in the state. Under the law, the Commission must ~~and~~ includes five registered Democrats, five registered Republicans, and four registered Decline to State Commissioners.

Q. What was the process of becoming a member of the Commission?

A. When the applications became available, interested parties submitted their applications online. Applicants who affirmed in their applications that they met all of the law's qualifications ~~in the Act~~ for serving on the Commission, and did not have a "conflict of interest" were invited to submit a supplemental application in which they answered essay questions providing insight into their professional experience, awareness of California's diversity, and their reasons for wanting to serve on the Commission. ~~were invited to submit a supplemental application containing additional information about their qualifications.~~

~~Q. How were the members of the Commission selected after the application period closed?~~

~~Interested parties submitted their application online. Applicants who met the qualifications in the Act and did not have a "conflict of interest" were invited to submit a supplemental application in which they answered essay questions providing insight into their professional experience, awareness of California's diversity, and their reasons for wanting to serve on the Commission.~~

Three independent auditors from the Bureau of State Audits reviewed the applications of all applicants who did not have a conflict of interest and who submitted the supplemental application. ~~The independent auditors then~~ and selected 120 of the most qualified applicants

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to be interviewed in Sacramento. The 120 applicants were divided into 3 sub-pools: 40 registered Democrats, 40 registered Republicans, and 40 who were neither registered Democrats nor registered Republicans.

Following the interviews, the total pool was reduced to 60, again with equal sub-pools. Those 60 names were sent to the leadership of both houses of the Legislature, where the leaders exercised their right under the Act to remove up to 24 applicants from the pool.

On November 18, 2010, the State Auditor randomly drew the names of 3 registered Democrats, 3 registered Republicans and 2 registered Decline to State applicants, and they became the first 8 members of the Commission. Subsequently, on December 15, 2010, the first 8 Commissioners selected the final 6 Commissioners, choosing 2 registered Democrats, 2 registered Republicans and 2 registered Decline to State.

Q. Will Commission members be paid?

Yes. ~~The Act~~ law specifies that members of the Commission will be compensated at the rate of \$300 for each day a Commissioner is engaged in Commission business. ~~The Act~~ It also allows for reimbursement for personal expenses incurred in connection with the duties required of Commissioners.

Q How long will Commission members serve?

The Act ~~law~~ states that the Commission will serve for 10 years, however, most of the work that the Commissioners will perform should be completed by the time they approve the maps of the new districts, which is required by August 15, 2011.

Q. How can we find out more about the Commissioners' backgrounds?

A. Brief bios of the Commissioners are posted at wedrawthelines.com. The Commissioners' very exhaustive supplemental applications are also posted as well as their financial disclosure statements.

Q. What is the difference between reapportionment and redistricting?

A. Reapportionment is the ~~permanent-Constitutionally-required~~ process by which seats in the US House of Representatives are redistributed among the 50 states ~~according to each~~ after each decennial Census. Redistricting is the process of drawing district lines to equalize populations which means changing the boundaries every ten years ~~following the census~~.

Q. Why should Californians have confidence that 14 Commissioners who are unelected and therefore unaccountable to the voters will be able to produce district boundaries that are in the voters' best interests?

A. It was the voters themselves that took the job of redistricting out of the elected legislators' hands ~~because of their frustration with a process which served to protect incumbents~~. The voters instituted supported a new process which would to choose 14 citizens with a myriad of backgrounds, skills and from varied geographic locations to draw district boundaries based on criteria designed to preserve communities of interest.

Q. Why should I care about redistricting?

A. One of the greatest powers that the people have is the right to elect their ~~own~~ representatives to conduct the business of their government. How the district boundaries are configured can make the difference between empowering and maximizing the voters' voices or minimizing and muting those voices. The independent Citizens Redistricting Commission is committed to drawing fair districts that reflect the best interests of the people not the incumbent political parties.

Q. Won't legislators be working behind the scenes to influence Commissioners and take control of the redistricting process?

A. The Voters First Act law is very clear that no non-public communication between legislators and Commissioners regarding redistricting issues can occur. Any comment from legislators must take place in a public Commission meeting--just like any other citizen.

Q. What criteria will the Commission consider in deciding the districts?

Comment [16]: Already answered above. If keep as an FAQ, consider using text from above section.

A. The criteria for the Commission to follow is laid out in the Act:

- Districts must be of equal population to comply with the US Constitution.
- Districts must comply with the Voting Rights Act ~~to ensure that minorities have an equal opportunity to elect representatives of their choice.~~
- Districts must be contiguous so that all parts of the district are connected to each other.
- Districts must respect the boundaries of cities, counties, neighborhoods and communities of Interest, and minimize their division, to the extent possible.
- Districts should be geographically compact, that is, have a fairly regular shape.
- Where practicable each Senate District should be comprised of two complete and adjacent Assembly Districts and Board of Equalization districts shall be composed of 10 complete and adjacent State Senate Districts.
- Districts shall not be drawn to favor or discriminate against an incumbent, candidate, or political party.

Q. What is the Voting Rights Act and why is it important?

Comment [!7]: Already answered. If keep this as an FAQ, use the discussion above

~~A. Before the Voting Rights Act was passed, the practice of many states was to require qualified African Americans to pass literacy tests in order to register to vote. Other states only allowed a person to register to vote if his or her grandfather was allowed to vote. The Voting Rights Act was passed in 1965 to outlaw these practices.~~

~~In the 1970s, Congress heard extensive testimony about how state and local governments drew district lines and manipulated elections rules to prevent newly registered African American voters from being able to elect candidates. Today, the Voting Rights Act protects all racial and language minorities, including African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, Native Americans and Pacific Islanders.~~

~~The Commission will consider public input and legal and expert advice to meet the Voting Rights Act requirements.~~

~~For a more detailed description of how the Voting Rights Act works, visit the U.S. Department of Justice at: <http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/vot/redistricting.php>.~~

Q. What is a community of interest?

Comment [!8]: If keep this as an FAQ, use the discussion above

~~A. The California Constitution defines a community of interest as:~~

~~A community of interest is a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation. Examples of such shared interests are those common to an urban area, a rural area, an industrial area, or an agricultural area, and those common to areas in which the people share similar living standards, use the same transportation facilities, have similar work opportunities, or have access to the same media of communication relevant to the election process. Communities of interest shall not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.~~

~~*- Section 2(d)(4) of Article XXI of the California Constitution*~~

Q. Does the Act-law require that districts be more competitive, rather than dominated by one political party?

A: No. District competitiveness is not on the list of criteria that the Commission must consider when drawing districts. ~~Historically, districts were drawn to favor incumbents and this naturally led to dominance by one political party. Under the Act, districts must be drawn to maximize voters' opportunity to elect representatives of their own choosing, and this may lead to more competitive races~~

Q. Can't this whole process be done by a computer program?

A: The Commission is relying on the active participation of citizens across California to weigh in on how the districts should be drawn, since information about “communities of interest” is not collected in the Census. This is an open conversation that will assist the Commission in evaluating citizen input and exercising responsible judgment about what districts should look like – a computer could never do that

Q: What is the difference between the Commission’s work and what was done in the past?

A: Historically, ~~the California legislature~~ drew the district boundaries, ~~including for their own districts, in closed meetings, often favoring incumbents or their own party.~~ This Commission is independent of the legislature and committed to including the voices of all Californians in the process. ~~In addition to holding public hearings throughout the State, the Commission is soliciting citizen participation through its website www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov as well as new media such as Twitter and Facebook. You will also see Commissioners participating in speaking engagements and educational forums in your local community.~~

Q. What happens if the Commission cannot agree on the final redistricting maps?

~~A. Each of the 14 Commissioners is committed to delivering fair district boundaries. To accomplish that goal the Commission is undertaking a deliberative and open process engaging citizens from every corner of the state. Through that process, and working with all the critical data available, the Commission will have a clear understanding to enable them to draw the lines and agree to final maps.~~

In the unlikely scenario that the Commission does not come to agreement on final district boundaries, the matter goes directly to the California Supreme Court which will appoint three masters to draw the lines.

Q. What happens if there is a legal challenge to the district maps adopted by the Commission?

~~A. The Act provides that a~~Any legal challenge to the new districts goes is sent straight directly to the California Supreme Court for review. ~~This provision was written to expedite any legal challenge straight to the state's highest court so a decision could be made on the maps in time for the June 2012 elections.~~

6.1. Who are the Commissioners?

BIOS

Dr. Gabino Aguirre was born to farm worker parents and spent his childhood following the crops cycling from Texas to Oregon, California and then Arizona. After graduating from high school in Arizona, he left his family to come to California. Shortly thereafter, he was conscripted into the army where he served as a technical specialist working with computers and weapons experimentation related to the Vietnam-era conflict. Following his service he enrolled in college and earned a Bachelor's degree from UCLA, a Master's in Education from USC, and a Ph.D. in Social Science/Comparative Education from UCLA. His career in education spanned thirty years and he retired as a high school principal in 2007. Dr. Aguirre has dedicated himself to community development and empowerment for over four decades and has founded and/or served as a board member on many community-based organizations. He has served on the Santa Paula City Council since his election in 2002. Commissioner Aguirre is registered with the Democratic Party and lives in the City of Santa Paula in Ventura County.

"On a political level, I've learned that both the equitable distribution of resources and who is at the table deciding on such distribution is at the heart of many of our social problems. Active participation must be planned for and facilitated, especially for those marginalized within current social socio-political structures. Broader participation will occur only when government is perceived as accessible and organized to serve the public interest and not stacked in favor of particular candidates or parties. Helping with this process is my fundamental concern with this Commission."

Angelo Ancheta is a law professor and legal scholar whose writing has focused on issues surrounding racial discrimination and immigrants' rights. He is the director of the Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center at the Santa Clara University School of Law. Prior to joining the law faculty at Santa Clara, Commissioner Ancheta was a lecturer at Harvard Law School, an adjunct professor at NYU School of Law, and taught at UCLA School of Law. Before starting his academic career, Commissioner Ancheta was a legal services and nonprofit executive director in both Northern and Southern California, specializing in immigration, voting rights, and constitutional law. He holds degrees from UCLA, UCLA School of Law, and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. Commissioner Ancheta is registered with the Democratic Party and lives in the City and County of San Francisco.

"The Commission will play a key role in defining the next decade's opportunities for civic engagement for candidates seeking office as well as for voters and residents. Redistricting is a vitally important part of the democratic process, but it can be opaque to most citizens because it occurs every ten years, involves specialized procedures, and has, in the past, been the province of the legislature. Moving the process to the State's citizenry marks a significant change in power, but it is also an important shift in civic obligation that requires active participation and dedication from the voters."

Vince Barabba founded Market Insight Corporation in 2003. Market Insight Corporation provides real time online shopper preferences to help companies better reach their target audiences. He provides guidance to the enterprise as it tracks shopper preferences through the use of a consumer Web site called MyProductAdvisor.com. His career includes two stints as director of the U.S. Census Bureau, with appointments from both Presidents Nixon and Ford and later asked by President Carter to direct the conduct of the 1980 Census. Mr. Barabba received a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Woodbury Business College, a Bachelor's degree in Marketing from California State University, Northridge and an MBA from UCLA. Commissioner Barabba is registered with the Republican Party and lives in the City of Capitola in Santa Cruz County.

"I am excited about the opportunity to bring [my] experience and knowledge to help achieve the Redistricting Commission's objective of creating legislative districts that will improve the proximity of citizens and the legislators who represent them, thereby enhancing their ability to communicate and interact in a constructive manner."

Maria Blanco is the Vice President of the Civic Engagement for the California Community Foundation. CCF-LA is the community foundation for the city of Los Angeles. The purpose of the California Community Foundation is to help strengthen communities and build a brighter future for Los Angeles County. It seeks to improve life for all residents, especially those who are most vulnerable; promote philanthropy and work with others to address the core causes of problems facing Los Angeles. Prior to becoming a Vice President at CCF, Ms. Blanco was the Executive Director of the Earl Warren Institute at UC Berkeley's School of Law. She holds a law degree from UC Berkeley's School of Law and a BA from UC Berkeley. Commissioner Blanco is registered with the Democratic Party and lives in the City and County of Los Angeles.

"I am honored and excited to serve on California's first Citizens Redistricting Commission. My hope is that the commission will help set the tone for open and collective problem solving in California."

Cynthia Dai is a native Californian, second-generation Asian-American and has worked and lived in several countries around the world. As CEO of Dainamic Consulting, Inc., Ms. Dai has advised growth organizations and social ventures for 18+ years and often serves as an interim executive of both early-stage and public ventures. Ms. Dai has an MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business and a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science with honors from UC Berkeley. An Industry Fellow at the Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology at UC Berkeley's College of Engineering, she has taught Leadership, Teamwork, and Entrepreneurship courses at Cal and in the Tsinghua-Berkeley Global Technology Entrepreneurship Program in Beijing, China. She is active in the community as a volunteer and currently serves as a Board member of Santa Clara University's Center for Science, Technology and Society. Commissioner Dai is registered with the Democratic Party and lives in the City and County of San Francisco.

"I am motivated to serve on the Commission for three reasons: 1) I want to be part of a solution that restores faith in the electoral process and improves the effectiveness of state government; 2) I'd like to give the underrepresented a voice; 3) I have the experience and skills to be a Commissioner who can make a difference."

Michelle DiGuilio, a native Californian, has spent the past twelve years working with numerous agencies in the Central Valley. Ms. DiGuilio has assisted non-profit organizations in their strategic planning efforts, board development and in streamlining internal policies. She has facilitated regional discussions with groups throughout the Central Valley; served as an administrator for a California Council for the Humanities project and as a training coordinator at the University of the Pacific. Currently, Ms. DiGuilio is a stay-at-home mother by choice, allowing her to participate in family and community activities. She earned a Bachelor's degree from the University of California, San Diego and a Master's degree in Community Planning (Urban and Regional) from the University of Cincinnati. Commissioner DiGuilio is registered as Decline-To-State and lives in the City of Stockton in San Joaquin County.

"With the Citizens Redistricting Commission, the opportunity to be a part of the redistricting process is a uniquely democratic undertaking, not only for the duties of drawing district boundaries but, more importantly, to ensure that California citizens have representation through the most fair and equitable manner possible."

Jodie Filkins Webber is a self-employed attorney, practicing law in Orange County. Ms. Filkins Webber is an insurance litigation defense attorney representing various insurance companies, adjusting companies and self-insured employers in defense of claims for workers' compensation benefits and personal injury. She also specialized in providing legal opinions on various insurance coverage issues. Ms. Filkins Webber practices before all Southern California Courts and Workers Compensation Appeals' Boards. Ms. Filkins Webber received a Bachelor degree from UC Riverside and a law degree from Whittier Law School, formerly Whittier College School of Law. Ms. Filkins Webber has lived throughout Southern California including Los Angeles and Lake Forest. Commissioner Filkins Webber is registered with the Republican Party and lives in the City of Norco in Riverside County.

"I am interested in serving on the Citizens Redistricting Commission to serve our citizenry and State to insure adequate representation of each citizen to meet the purpose of the Proposition and allow for full participation of independent voters in the election process."

Stanley Forbes is a co-owner of Avid Reader, an independent retail bookstore. There he selects merchandise, sells and markets books, provides customer service and attends to financial matters. Mr. Forbes also has spent the last 32 years operating a family ranch, managing crop selection, market research, financial planning, equipment operation, irrigation, chemical and air quality regulation compliance, pruning and raking almonds. Mr. Forbes received a Bachelor's degree from the University of Southern California, a Master's degree from UCLA, and a Law Degree from Vanderbilt University. Mr. Forbes is registered as Decline-To-State and lives in Esparto in Yolo County.

"I applied to serve on the Citizens Redistricting Commission out of a deep concern that unless reformed, California may be unable to effectively address the problems it faces as well as maximize the opportunities that will enable the people of California to pursue and fulfill their potential."

Connie Galambos Malloy is employed with Urban Habitat (UH), a regional urban planning and policy organization. Ms. Galambos Malloy is a member of UH's Management Team, responsible for staff supervision and evaluation, organizational development, strategic program planning and management, coalition building, policy analysis, fundraising, budget management, and also acts as the organization's spokesperson. She was also instrumental in launching UH's signature Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute. Previously, Ms. Galambos Malloy served as a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Fellow, Program Coordinator for Redefining Progress and a Peace Corps volunteer in Bolivia's Amazon Basin. She is a founding board member of AFAAD: Adopted & Fostered Adults of the African Diaspora. Ms. Galambos Malloy received a Bachelor's degree from La Sierra University and a Master's degree in City and Regional Planning from UC Berkeley. Ms. Galambos Malloy is registered as Decline-To-State and lives in the City of Oakland in Alameda County.

"In order for California to thrive, the state's political districts must provide an effective mechanism through which all of its citizens engage in the democratic process governing our collective space. My boards and commission experience, first-hand knowledge of California's diverse regions, professional skill set as an urban planner and relationships across political party lines bring a powerful combination of resources to bear upon California's Citizens Redistricting Commission."

Gil Ontai is a practicing architect and part-time lecturer at Springfield College. He served as a city redevelopment board director for San Diego's downtown district and as a city planning commissioner for 8 years. For over 30 years, he has been active in a wide-range of professional, educational, health, civic, and multi-cultural organizations. He is a volunteer board member of Pacific American Academy Charter School and Neighborhood House Association. Mr. Ontai graduated with a Bachelor's degree from the University of Hawaii and went on to receive his Master's degree from Washington University in St. Louis. Commissioner Ontai is registered with the Republican Party and lives in the City and County of San Diego.

"Perhaps no time in our history is redistricting so important to the strengthening of our republican form of democracy. The new demographics portend that California will have a chance to show the nation that diverse communities not only can live and work together, but can be fairly represented in the body politic. I am so honored to be part of this process and a member of this commission."

M. Andre Parvenu is a geographer, urban planner, and community outreach specialist, and is currently a Zoning Analyst with the Los Angeles Department of City Planning. Prior experiences include Senior Communications Officer for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and Transportation Planning Manager for the Los Angeles Department of Transportation. Mr. Parvenu has also worked as a Community Partnership Specialist with the United States Census Bureau, a Crisis Relocation Planner with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and as migration specialist with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Central America. Mr. Parvenu received a Master of Science Degree in Geography from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and has completed undergraduate work in geography, cartography, and urban studies at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland and Howard University in Washington, D.C. Commissioner Parvenu is registered as a Decline-to-State and lives in Culver City in Los Angeles County.

"I am indeed privileged and honored to serve on the California Citizens Redistricting Commission. I view this as a unique opportunity to utilize all of my skills in the areas of geography, planning and community outreach to provide a valuable service to the people of California. I represent the underrepresented. It is important to draw lines and district boundaries that will work favorably and serve in the best interest of every citizen in this State. I look forward to this historic opportunity to serve."

Jeanne Raya is employed by the John L Raya Insurance Agency, a family-owned business established in San Gabriel in 1960. Currently, she is an Agency Principal, responsible for marketing commercial insurance, risk management consulting, and managing external relationships with carriers and regulatory agencies. Under her leadership, the Agency has developed expertise working with non-profit organizations and medical facilities. Ms. Raya received a Bachelor's Degree and Teaching Credentials from the University of Southern California, and a Law Degree from UC Davis. She has served as staff counsel for the Board of Equalization and the Public Employment Relations Board. In private law practice for 14 years, Ms. Raya specialized in Family Law and Probate. She served as President of the California La Raza Lawyers Association, as a member of the Committee of Bar Examiners and as President of the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce, Ms. Raya is a registered Democrat and lives in the City of San Gabriel in Los Angeles County.

"I view serving on the Commission as a unique opportunity as a citizen to help shape California's political future. I believe that our political system is capable of evolving and can incorporate the demographic, technological and economic changes that have shaped California since the last redistricting. We must do all we can to insure that citizens maintain faith in representative democracy. Drawing voting boundaries is a fundamental aspect of the structure of democracy and I am honored to be part of a process that can reassure voters they do have a voice."

Dr. Michael Ward is both an ACA and CCA member of the Doctor of Chiropractic and Sports Medicine in Fullerton since 2005. He specializes in myoneural medicine being distinctively designated as a Registered Trigenics Physician. Dr. Ward also teaches anatomy and physiology at Marston Polygraph Academy and is an APA and CAPE certified polygrapher. Dr. Ward was a Federal Agent in charge of international criminal, narcotics and counter-intelligence investigations and was part of the response team to the 9/11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon. He also directed the establishment and daily operations of a Global Threat Watch Headquarters for the Department of Defense. Dr. Ward is a proud military veteran having served as a decorated officer with the U.S. Air Force. Dr. Ward is an honors graduate from California State University Fullerton with a Bachelor's degree in Communications. He later achieved a Doctorate of Chiropractic Medicine with Honors from the Southern California University of Health Sciences. Commissioner Ward is registered with the Republican Party and lives in the City of Anaheim in Orange County.

"No place is as culturally, geographically or politically rich as California. Securing that every citizen of this Golden state has an equal and honest chance to have their voices heard is a great calling and one that I have a genuine and passionate interest in. Ensuring parity amongst all citizens who participate in the electoral process is a preeminent opportunity to safeguard continued achievement, success and prosperity for all Californians."

Peter Yao served two terms on the City Council for the City of Claremont ending in 2010. He was the city Mayor in 2006 and 2007. During his tenure, the City completed a consensus based city General Plan which the City adheres as guideline for long term economic development and for budget priorities. He advocated for the completion of the first affordable housing in this upscale community in the pursuit of economic diversity. Mr. Yao began his professional career as a circuit designer. His final position with Raytheon Corporation was the Director of Engineering. He retired in 2005. Mr. Yao received a BS Electrical Engineering from UC Berkeley. He received a MSEE from State University of New York at Buffalo, a MBA from California State University at Fullerton and a Masters in Management from the Claremont Graduate University's Drucker School of Management. Commissioner Yao is registered with the Republican Party and lives in the City of Claremont in Los Angeles County..

"I look forward to being a part of this creative team that addresses the problem of representational fairness. This is an opportunity to redraw district lines to maximize political competitiveness. I want to remove the systematic bias on the selection of political candidates. I want to assure citizens that their participation in the democratic process in California is meaningful."

7. Special Thanks

~~Special thanks to Common Cause and RedistrictingCA for providing advice and assistance in putting this Toolkit together:~~

